

AGRICULTURAL REFORM

(Mr. SMITH of Michigan asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SMITH of Michigan. Madam Speaker, the Senate recently passed their farm bill. In that farm bill, they had payment limitations that I think is the kind of farm policy we should have in this country.

I ask all my colleagues in this Chamber to support the idea of some kind of payment limitations, whether it be \$200,000 or \$300,000 or a half a million dollars, but something so that the megafarms and the megacorporations that own 50,000, 60,000, 80,000 acres are not capturing so much of the proceeds of our farm program payments.

Madam Speaker, there are some people who say that there are payment limits for price supports. There are no payment limits for price supports. They can do an end-run.

Let me just demonstrate the top five recipients of farm program payments for 1996 through 2000, according to the Environmental Working Group's Web site: Riceland Foods, \$49 million; Farmers Rice Co-op, \$38 million; Harvest States Co-op, \$28 million; Tyler Farms, \$23 million; and Producers Rice Mill, \$19 million.

It is reasonable to have farm policy that helps most of the farmers in this country. We can argue about what a family farm is, but what we cannot argue about is farm policy that gives most of the money to the megafarms.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER
PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on each motion to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or on which the vote is objected to under clause 6 of rule XX.

Any record votes on postponed questions will be taken after debate has concluded on all motions to suspend the rules, but not before 6:30 p.m. today.

FAMILY SPONSOR IMMIGRATION
ACT OF 2001

Mr. SENSENBRENNER. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and concur in the Senate amendment to the bill (H.R. 1892) to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to provide for the acceptance of an affidavit of support from another eligible sponsor if the original sponsor has died and the Attorney General has determined for humanitarian reasons that the original sponsor's classification petition should not be revoked.

The Clerk read as follows:

Senate amendment:

Page 3, line 4, after "law," insert "sister-in-law, brother-in-law,".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. SENSENBRENNER) and the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON-LEE) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. SENSENBRENNER).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SENSENBRENNER. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on H.R. 1892, the bill under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Wisconsin?

There was no objection.

Mr. SENSENBRENNER. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, H.R. 1892, the Family Sponsor Immigration Act of 2001, was introduced by the two gentlemen from California (Mr. CALVERT) and (Mr. ISSA).

I want to thank them for bringing to our attention an unintended quirk in the Immigration and Nationality Act that needlessly keeps families separated. I also want to thank them as well for developing this bill, which corrects the problem.

Each year, the United States provides hundreds of thousands of immigrant visas for spouses and other family members of U.S. citizens and permanent residents. Tragically, each year a number of these U.S. citizens and permanent residents petitioning for their family members will die before the immigration process is complete.

Generally, INS regulations provide for automatic revocation of a petition when the petitioner dies. The consequences are severe for a beneficiary when his or her petitioner dies before the beneficiary has adjusted status or received an immigrant visa. If no other relative can qualify as a petitioner, then the beneficiary would lose the opportunity to become a permanent resident.

For instance, if a petition is revoked because a widowed citizen-father dies after petitioning for an adult unmarried daughter, the daughter would have no living mother to file a new petition. If another relative can file an immigrant visa petition for the beneficiary, that beneficiary would still go to the end of the line if the visa category was numerically limited.

For instance, if the daughter's mother was alive, she could file a new first family-preference petition. However, the daughter would lose her priority date based on the time her father's petition had been filed with the INS and would receive a later priority date based upon the filing date of her mother's petition.

Because of the severe consequences of the revocation of a visa petition, INS regulations do allow the Attorney Gen-

eral, in his or her discretion, to determine that, for humanitarian reasons, revocation would be inappropriate, and thus complete the unification of a family.

However, there is a complication. The Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act of 1996 requires that when a family member petitions for a relative to receive an immigrant visa, the visa can only be granted if the petitioner signs a legally-binding affidavit of support promising to provide support of the immigrant.

If the petitioner has died, obviously he or she cannot sign the affidavit. Thus even in cases where the Attorney General feels a humanitarian waiver of the revocation of the visa petition is warranted, under current law a permanent resident visa cannot be granted because the affidavit requirement is unfulfilled.

H.R. 1892 solves this dilemma. It simply provides that in cases where the petitioner has died and the Attorney General has determined for humanitarian reasons that revocation of the petition would be inappropriate, a close family other than the petitioner would be allowed to sign the necessary affidavit of support.

Eligible family members in H.R. 1892, as it passed the House last July, would include spouses, parents, grandparents, mothers- and fathers-in-law, siblings, adult sons and daughters, adult sons and daughters-in-law, and grandchildren. Legal guardians would also be eligible.

The Senate passed a minor amendment to the bill to add brothers- and sisters-in-law, and this is the motion to concur in the amendment that is before the House today.

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H.R. 1892 is humanitarian and pro-family. I urge my colleagues to support the bill.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I rise to support H.R. 1892 and thank the co-sponsors of this legislation, the gentleman from California (Mr. ISSA) and the gentleman from California (Mr. CALVERT); and as well I thank the chairman of the Committee on the Judiciary for his astuteness and commitment to this legislation, having spearheaded its movement through the House the last time we were able to vote on it. I as well thank the ranking member for his commitment to these issues.

I believe that this is a legislative initiative that is extremely important because it speaks to the cornerstone of immigration policy in this Nation, and that is family reunification. In spite of all the tragedies that we have faced in the last year and reminding ourselves of the tragedy of September 11, I believe this Nation should never stray